

Andrew's victory



ANDREW West won the Boreham Cup at the National Spastics Games on Saturday, July 21st—and a victory in his personal battle against the enemy of severe handicap. The Cup is awarded annually at the Games to the competitor adjudged to have made the most endeavour to take part. It is inscribed with the words, "Victory is a thing of the will." Words particularly appropriate to Andrew.

When Andrew first arrived at The Spastics Society's Meldreth Manor School near Royston, Herts., he was unable to walk or communicate and lived sadly in his own little private world of mental and physical handicap.

Loving care

But Andrew, now 13, demonstrated what the right kind of schooling, loving care and constant encouragement, can do for the multiply handicapped child when he wheeled himself forward to receive the Cup at the fifth National Spastics Games, held at the National Sports Centre for Wales, Cardiff. He was chosen from nearly 300 competitors.

Andrew, who has spastic diplegia, romped home first in two junior events, the wheelchair slalom and tricycle dash, and picked up two further certificates for being placed second in two more events. But the Cup was a personal achievement for the type of courage and determination which would put many an able-bodied adult to shame.

Because he wanted desperately to walk, despite his lack of balance, he has struggled manfully over the years to learn how to take a few faltering steps on his own. This in turn gave him extra confidence and now he takes part in all sorts of physical activities, including climbing, swimming and riding, where he disdains a leading rein. Even though he

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Boppo the bear makes friends with actor Francis Matthews and a party of children from The Spastics Society's Ingfield Manor School, Sussex. This most amiable of bears figures prominently in Spastics News today as he—and the first book about his adventures—has been launched to help the Society.

With a fitting sense of occasion, Boppo went along to Chessington Zoo for a meeting with graphers, to mark publication day. There was also a launching party at the Society's London headquarters, and you can see more pictures of Boppo's big day on the back page.

The picture, right, shows Boppo with Mrs. Billie Roberts, who runs the Boppo Club which has been established by Top Ten Promotions.



Boppo was born to help raise funds for the Society

A UNIQUE publishing venture was launched in July when Boppo the Bear entered the children's books arena. Boppo was created especially to help charity, and a proportion of profits from all books sold will benefit The Spastics Society, and many of its 177 affiliated local groups throughout England and Wales.

The initial print order is 50,000. But already three further books are planned, and games based around Boppo are in the pipeline. It is hoped eventually to raise still more money for some of the nation's handicapped by marketing the new bear as a children's character.

The idea for the venture arose some two years ago when The Spastics Society's Director, James Loring, asked author Bob Cotton to investigate the possibility of a children's annual character who could be character merchandised. Mr. Cotton approached book publishers, Purnell Books, with his profile of an affable bear who escapes from a zoo and becomes a cook with a knack

of getting his fingers into a number of adventurous pies. Purnells liked the idea and agreed to co-operate.

The Boppo books are illustrated by Cameron, the artist who designed the award winning Chambourcey posters. They retail at 75p.

Gift for room

Loughborough and District Spastics Society has donated £4,000 for a room in a new extension at John Storer House. This is the headquarters of the town's voluntary social service agencies. The spastics group has been using the building for handicrafts, socials and meetings, and will have priority in the use of the new room.

World-wide appeal of the Games

THE first National Spastics Games which were organised by The Spastics Society five years ago, started an international movement. The close on 300 competitors who travelled from all over the country to the fifth Games at Cardiff on Saturday, July 21st, were told at the opening ceremony that, apart from the European Games in London last year, similar events had been held in France, Sweden and Germany, and the crowning achievement would be the International Spastics Games at Crystal Palace next summer.

The spastics who went to Cardiff to compete with such determination, skill and good sportsmanship—and their ages ranged from seven years to late middle age—will be strong contenders for places at the International Games.

They had won their places in the events at Cardiff after competing in Regional Games held throughout the country in the past few weeks. Over 1,000 spastics took part in the regional events—firm evidence of the enthusiasm with

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Right: Proud smiles from the team from the Society's Percy Hedley School which won the Oakwood Challenge Trophy for the wheelchair relay race. On the left is Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, and surrounded by young competitors in the crowd is Mr. Ken Long, Managing Director of Top Ten Promotions.



Above: A picture which sums up the effort which spastics put into competing at the Games, as Deborah Sherrington, aged nine, of the Society's Craig-y-Park School, takes her turn in an Indian





When Her Majesty the Queen Mother carried out an inspection of the Horse Rangers Association at Hampton Court, she was presented with a bouquet by a 15-year-old spastic, Carole Watson, of Chessington, Surrey.

Carole, pictured above making the presentation, had to learn to walk again after a serious operation some months ago.

Picture by courtesy of Kingston and Malden Borough News.

Students at the Somerset College of Agriculture and Horticulture collected £445 during their Rag Week. The money was presented to the Mayor of Bridgwater, Councillor Jack Saunders, who accepted it on behalf of Bridgwater Spastics Association.

High hopes for cash success from first national campaign for schools

YOUTH will help in a campaign that Robin Daniels, Senior Appeals Development Officer of The Spastics Society describes as: "Having the makings of being the most successful fund raising event undertaken by the Regions Division."

It is the National Schools Competition in which schools will compete to raise funds for the Society. A short letter describing the campaign which was sent out in June has so far brought a response from more than 300 schools in less than a month.

Every kind of school from huge comprehensives to small private schools, ancient public schools and approved schools have been circulated and most of them have never worked to raise funds for the Society before.

Said Mr. Daniels: "The schools were obviously impressed by the scale of the competition and by the attractiveness of the prizes which have been carefully selected with school-children in mind."

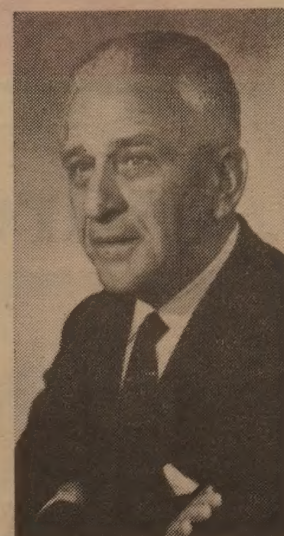
The value of the prizes is more than £4,000 and includes eight colour and two portable television sets from Rediffusion, sports equipment including international footballs, which are used at Wembley Cup Finals, from Mitre Sports, and book

prizes worth £1,750 from Longmans and Penguins.

The main mailing to the 7,000 selected schools will be timed to arrive soon after the start of the autumn term. There will be an explanatory letter from the Campaign President, Lord Maybray-King, a deputy speaker of the House of Lords and former Speaker of the House of Commons, and an eye-catching poster for the school notice board. This shows a

coloured spastic boy and a white spastic girl holding hands to emphasise the multi-racial outlook of the Society. Lord Maybray-King and famous personalities, for instance in the world of sport, will be at the prize-givings in 1974.

The Senior Regional Officers have been involved in an intensive "think-tank" session on the scheme every time they have been to London over the last six months. They will have to liaise with the schools in their area taking part, giving talks and seeing that the whole competition runs smoothly at local level.



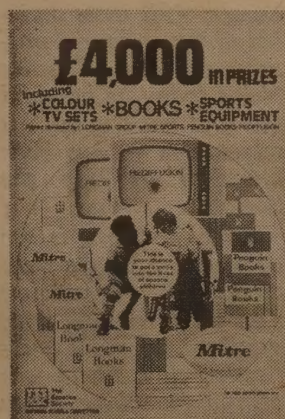
Lord Maybray-King is the President of the Society's National Schools Campaign.

Not only will the schools be out to win the prizes but their pupils will be actively concerned in benefiting spastics all over the country.

£3,500 on way to new centre

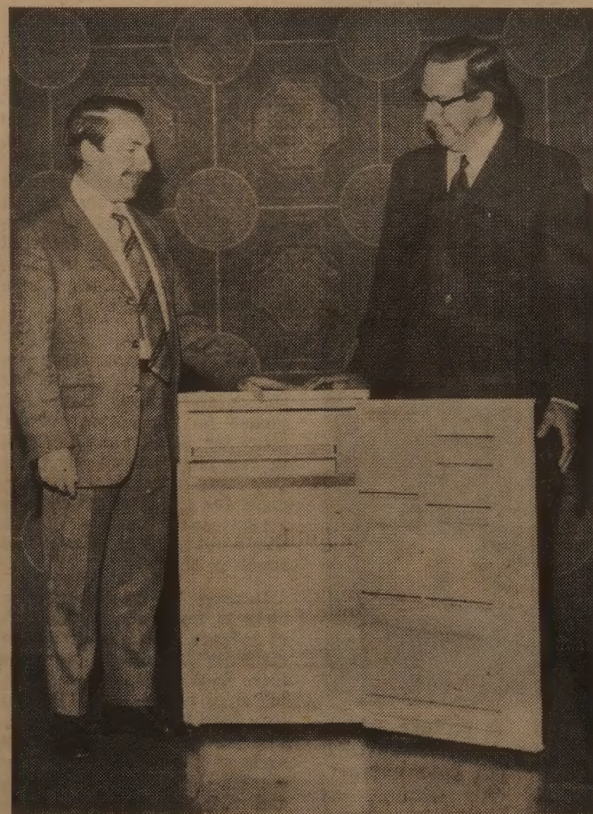
A COUNTY Door-Knock held by secondary schoolchildren in Shropshire has collected £3,500 for the Shropshire Spastics Society. This will go towards the group's new day centre on which building work has just started. The centre will cater for very severely handicapped children who cannot benefit from existing facilities.

The Spastics Society is providing £40,000 of the capital cost, leaving £10,000 to be raised locally.



The poster designed for many school notice boards as part of the National School competition. The centre picture of the young spastics was taken at Meldreth Manor School, and underlines the multi-racial nature of The Spastics Society's work.

Warm gesture from 'fridge firm



A NEW holiday caravan for spastic children has been provided with a final touch of luxury, thanks to a firm in Burnley, Lancashire.

The caravan was bought from a charity fund set up by Councillor Abel Bridge, last year's Mayor of Burnley. It is now parked by the sea at Fleetwood and being used for holidays by Burnley families with spastic children.

The van was presented to Burnley Area and Rossendale Spastics Group complete with most essential fittings, but the group decided that a fridge was still needed. Officials were about to buy one when Lec Refrigeration Ltd. offered to donate a piece of equipment from their Burnley works.

Picture shows Mr. J. E. O'Hare (left), Northern Area manager of Lec, handing over the fridge to Mr. John Suthren, Vice-Chairman of Burnley Area and Rossendale Spastics Group.

Meeting's aim: Better service for spastic residents

THE heads of The Spastics Society's residential centres, adult house units, hotels, and social workers and headquarters staff gathered recently at The Princess Marina Centre, Seers Green, Bucks, for one of the regular twice yearly meetings. Mr. Michael Stopford, Head of Centres explained: "The subjects discussed are always pretty near to the main problem of providing a better service for the residents and what they want. Everyone is basically doing the same job and this get-together allows for the cross-fertilisation of

ideas. Very often it is the informal chats that prove more valuable than the formal conference discussions."

The venue changes each time although it is more or less restricted to centres in the Midlands or near London. "It is very useful varying the meeting place because it gives everyone a chance to see each others' centres. However we never go to the really far-flung ones because that would be impracticable for those travelling from the other end of the country", said Mr. Stopford.

Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, addressed the delegates informally over dinner on the evening before the day-long meeting.

The following day Mr.

Derek Lancaster-Gaye, Assistant Director Services gave a talk on "Services and the Future". He outlined some of the problems facing the Society and pointed out that finance was inevitably a major consideration, especially at a time when costs were rising without any corresponding increase in additional funds.

He also referred to the relationship of the Society to Local Authority bodies and the pressures being put on them to increase their contributions.

There had been agreements about substantial increase in fees, both in the care and education fields. He said that every few years The Executive Council had made a habit of re-examining the Society's services, usually as a result of the change in financial state. Such a study was currently being undertaken and it was sensible that the area of adult care should receive detailed consideration.

Mr. Lancaster-Gaye also pointed out that though the Society provided services where they were absent, it would not compete with statutory bodies. The Society had already obtained considerable expertise in the field of long-term care and maintained 34 centres — however it did not follow that the Society was necessarily ahead in this field, and future projects would be concerned more in improving the quality of what was being done, rather than in expanding in that area.

Mr. S. Cleaver, Warden, described the work done at the Princess Marina Centre which is able to provide a wide variety of activities for residents from 'O' and 'A' level studies to hydro-therapy and Workshop activities. The programme was flexible to meet the changing needs of residents.

Mr. J. Price, Assistant Director, Finance, outlined the Society's plans for computerisation in the future when it is

hoped that sections of the Society's administration will be entirely computerised.

Launching of appeals, Boxes and Beacons and centralised accounting were examples.

He described the advantages and said that before full computerisation in 1974 a unit would be selected as a "guinea pig." In his view redundancies would be unlikely and it was hoped that the new system would release certain staff from the burden of paper work.

Psychiatrist, Dr. Donald Gough, spoke on the ways in which a consultant psychiatrist can be of value to a residential centre.

He thought that in many cases better results were obtained from discussing the residents' problems with the Head and other staff rather than from conducting formal psychiatric interviews with individual residents. He felt that with the exception of very severe cases many residents'

problems were more satisfactorily dealt with by the Society's social workers than by referral to mental hospital-based consultant psychiatrists.

Dr. Gough commented on the very real difficulties of trust and confidence which inevitably arise when social workers or psychiatrists run therapy or discussion groups in residential centres. Such factors made things difficult but by no means impossible and group work of this kind could be of great value.

Among other topics discussed was the possibility of Centres remaining open all the year round and a five day working week. This would require additional staff and it was decided to research the matter. Also discussed was absenteeism and the difficulties of coping with the incontinent — it was agreed that from a staffing point of view all these matters were interconnected and should be considered together.



Mr. Heath examines the plaque which marks his opening of the Habinteg scheme, at Moira Close. Admiring it with him are Mr. Alex Moira the Chairman of Habinteg and Mr. Derek Lancaster-Gaye, Habinteg's Secretary. Mr. Moira, after whom the close was named is also a Vice-Chairman of The Spastics Society.

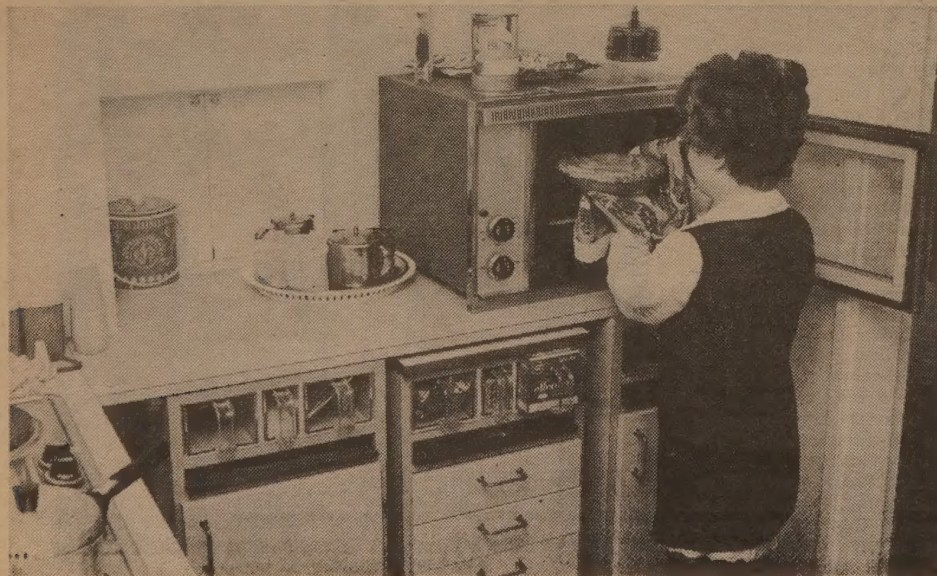
When the Prime Minister, Mr. Edward Heath, opened the Habinteg Housing Scheme at Moira Close, Haringey, London, he spoke of the need to make the provision of homes for the disabled "a growth industry." The Haringey homes represent the first completed development by Habinteg—a housing association formed with the encouragement and assistance of The Spastics Society. Here the disabled and able-bodied live side by side in the true spirit of integration.

PICTURE ABOVE shows Mr. Heath going "walk-about" after the official opening to see for himself how Habinteg differed from other housing developments. He strolled across the communal patio areas which combine to make a village-like atmosphere. There is low level street lighting as an aid to the wheelchair user at night—that way there is less fumbling for door keys and locks. People travelled from all over the country for the occasion.

Life is convenient in Habinteg homes

Life is good for the disabled in the carefully planned houses. Right: Tom Anable, a paraplegic following a tobogganing accident fends for himself at his own kitchen sink which like all the equipment in the Habinteg homes is specially designed to make life easy and comfortable.

Below: Mrs. Jean Levenson, who is under 4ft. tall, takes a pie out of the oven which is set at the right height for her. Mrs. Levenson is married to a spastic. They were engaged for three years before they married in March of this year.



It was tea for three at No. 22 Moira Close. The Prime Minister called in for tea and biscuits with Steve and Christine McKenzie a young spastic couple who were engaged for six years before the offer of a Habinteg flat gave them the chance to get married. Stephen wore his traditional tartan and Christine had a new pink outfit, for the occasion. Christine is a full time housewife and Steve helps her with the shopping at weekends.

After the ceremony — a nice cup of tea with Stephen and Christine

Stephen and Christine McKeenzie have a new friend — the Prime Minister. Mr. Heath had just officially opened the Habinteg Housing Association scheme at Haringey, North London, and Number 22, Moira Close, the McKenzies' home was his first port of call after the ceremony.

"We got on very well" said Christine after the Prime Minister had departed to continue his inspection of Moira Close, the first ever housing estate to integrate the disabled and the able-bodied.

Christine knew he was coming, but she didn't have to bake a cake—all the Premier wanted was a nice cup of tea and a biscuit.

"He enjoyed his tea and we chatted about the flat. I said how much we liked it because there is plenty of space, although we can't have children yet because there isn't enough room for a baby in a one-room flat. . . . I was a bit nervous of meeting him at first, but we had a lovely chat."

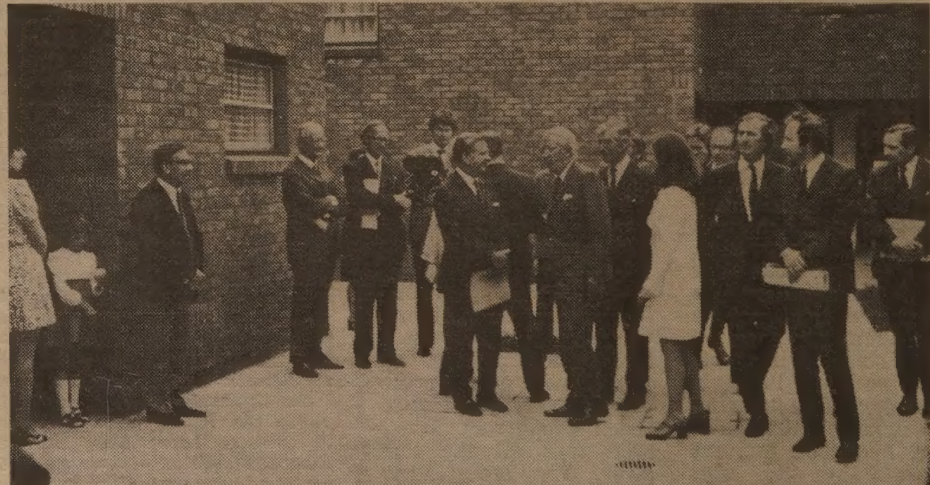
Christine wore a new pink outfit for the meeting, while Stephen wore traditional Highland dress—the last time he wore it was on his wedding day

earlier this year. It was because of the promise of the Habinteg home that the McKenzies were able to marry. They had been engaged for six years and living in the Society's homes because there was no married accommodation available. Now Christine is a full-time housewife while Stephen is the bread winner. Christine cleans the flat with the aid of a home help, who also came in to give her a hand the morning of Mr. Heath's visit. On Saturdays Stephen goes with her to the shop to get in the bulk of the shopping.

"But I can manage most things," said Christine.



Picture above shows the interior of a Habinteg flat for the disabled.



Mr. Heath talks to Mr. William Burn, Chairman of The Spastics Society and Kathie Williams, Habinteg's administrator, as he made his way round Moira Close. Kathie travelled to Scandinavia and France to cull the best ideas on aids to easier living for the disabled, and introduced them to the Habinteg development.

Local groups urged to give youngsters a chance on committees

MOVE over, and let younger people have a chance.

That is the outspoken message to committee members in local groups who hang on to office too long, from Mr. Mike Venables, The Spastics Society's senior regional officer for the Midlands.

In the new issue of the region's magazine, Midlands Progress, which is circulated to groups, Mike recalls that the Society is 21 years old this year, and so are a number of the voluntary groups.

"Many of the original Group Committee Members who started off their groups some twenty years ago are still serving as active committee members. Is it not time they were

given the chance to have a well earned rest?

"How many executive committees are there which have active members aged 21 or under? I know of only two in this region. What efforts have been made by groups to recruit young parents and young people to take part in group activities? How many committee members think they are indispensable and continue to

serve on the executive committees of groups with the best of intentions, but who may not realise they are preventing younger members coming forward?

"It is very pleasant to think one is indispensable and a group will collapse if one retires. Unfortunately, this, for the individual, is seldom the case, and frequently when an old member does retire and is replaced by a young member, the latter brings in new ideas which do nothing but good.

"Are you guilty of preventing, either directly or indirectly, younger members joining your committee? Young persons will not join your group and become active members if it is dominated, by—or in other words, if the majority of the committee consists of elderly people. I

shall not define elderly, but it should be remembered, a teenager thinks that somebody in their 'thirties has one foot in the grave!

"There are many young people in your own area who would be only too pleased to help spastics and the handicapped, but they will not come forward and become connected with a group if it is realised they will not be able to undertake various activities in their own way.

"Times change, and we must change with them."

Mike admits in the article that he has been outspoken, but says that if any of his readers feel at the back of their mind that he is right, "then you should re-examine your position with your group and make active efforts to bring in younger people." This can be done, he says, by forming an activities sub-committee, a youth wing of the group, or some similar active organisation, either within or connected with the group.

It is essential, he says, that if The Spastics Society and its affiliated groups are to thrive, then young blood must be encouraged to become interested in the problems of spastics.

"If elderly members of groups cling on to office for their own personal prestige, they may, without realising it, be doing far more harm to the group than by introducing younger people to take over in the next year or two."

Mr. Venables concludes by begging all executive committees to look at the problem and make contact with young people. "You can start," he says, "by inviting a youth club leader to attend your next committee meeting and ask him to give you advice."



Geraldine Evans of Cardiff is somebody special, and she is holding a vellum scroll to prove it. The parchment is a vote of thanks for her work for the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and only six are awarded each year.

Geraldine, who is a spastic, was presented with hers last month by the Prior of the Welsh Order of the Brigade, Lord

Aberdare, at Cardiff City Hall.

For the last eight years, in addition to flag selling for The Spastics Society, Geraldine has sold flags for the Brigade. Geraldine is a member of the '62 and '72 Clubs in Cardiff, and works full-time at Sully Spastics Work Centre.

Photo by David Mathias, Cardiff.



"Now the TV men are sorting it all out..." says reporter Steven

The B.B.C. 2 "Horizon" team has been filming at The Spastics Society's Ingfield Manor School at Billingshurst, Sussex, for a programme on facilities for the handicapped. Naturally, this caused great excitement among the children, and pupil Steven Hudson, aged 12, turned newspaper reporter to tell Spastics News what happened when, as he headlined his story, "TV came to Ingfield." Naturally, we have left his story as he wrote it: "The cameramen came and some of the children did their best walking. Some of us rode our bikes through wooden blocks and tried not to touch them. Then we all played some instruments in the garden. It was a sunny day. One morning they came into the dining room and took pictures of us doing the sign language and walking. "They took pictures of some of the children

doing hand class in Class 1 and 2, getting dressed, and having breakfast. Sarah Ewins had a birthday party and the team went in to watch.

"The men let me look through the cameras to see what the picture would look like. A man sat on a kind of chair on wheels and they moved it as we walked and it turned. It was very heavy and another man had to push it whilst the man sitting on it turned to point it.

"A man had earphones on and it made the sound louder. I tried them on and when someone banged it made me jump. On the floor there was a long thing picking up sound and a mike on the end of a very long arm to reach a long way. These men took all the film away. They are going to sort it all out so that we see it on television when it's ready."

A NEW inflatable sailing catamaran has been used by students on a special sailing course for the disabled. The course was organised by the Navy League National Sailing and Boat Training Centre at Raven's Ait, Surbiton, Surrey.

Students found the catamaran easily accessible to wheelchair users, the controls easy to reach, and the boat's general stability helped those with leg handicaps.

Picture shows, left to right, Miss Sandy Hills, student occupational therapist; Mr. Ken Roberts, a voluntary staff member on the course and secretary of the East Midlands Region of the British Sports Association for the Disabled; Miss Andree Bryant, a course member who is blind; and principal of Raven's Ait, Lt-Commander T. Ian G. Southcott, R.N.

Coffee morning with Mayoress

THE Mayoress of Cambridge, Mrs. Peter Wright, gave a civic Coffee Morning for the Cambridge and District Spastics Society, and the 140 people present showed great interest in the work of the Group and the Spastics Society generally. The Cambridge Group is providing the Family Help Unit at Shakers Lane, Bury St. Edmunds, with an outdoor adventure playground. The unit had very little play equipment for the children, and it was felt that this would be a very good project for 1973.

Sunny setting for French Spastics Games

Derek Lancaster-Gaye, Assistant Director, Services, of The Spastics Society was invited as Chairman of the Sports and Leisure Group of the International Cerebral Palsy Society by the French Sports Association for the Handicapped, to present the prizes at the first-ever French National Spastics Games — an event inspired by our own National Games. Here are Mr. Lancaster-Gaye's impressions of the occasion...

OVER two hundred spastic boys and girls from the length and breadth of France represented their districts in the first French National Spastics Games, last month. The event was held in the splendid isolation of Montrotat, a modern showpiece of a residential school for physically handicapped children.

Indeed it would be difficult to visualise a more beautiful setting than the wooded slopes of Marvejols in Southern France but somehow the French, as only the French can, managed to compete with nature in an event that was both colourful and at the same time near perfect in presentation.

One had to be impressed by the enthusiasm and persistence with which the field and track events, many strictly along British lines, were tackled by

the competitors. Events and results came thick but perhaps not so fast as the event was spread over four days. Certainly the entire proceedings had the presence of an Olympic event; only the flame and the crowds were missing. And one could not but be fascinated by the degree of precision and efficiency of the organisation, for which great credit must go to the group of enthusiasts led by Dr. Michel Gazeau who only last year attended the European Spastics Games in London as an observer.

Behind all the glamour of the track, the starting pistol and the finishing judges' step ladder one suspected there was

an element of uncertainty and apprehension. This was, after all the first event of its kind in France and was acknowledged to be the direct result of the stimulus provided by earlier games in the United Kingdom. But if there were mistakes these were not seen so much as sensed.

And after it all the successes and the failures were studied and debated in depth at a medical seminar. But the organisers need not have worried. If success is measured in terms of enjoyment, in participation and in terms of comradeship or if it can be seen in the faces of those destined for and who managed to scale the winners rostrum to receive their gold, their silver and their bronze from the impressive array of prize givers, the event must be adjudged a success.



Exuberant competitors on the winners' rostrum at the French Spastics Games.

Splashes from the Spastics Pool

THAT BEAR AGAIN

BOPPO (and if you are in any doubt about the identity of this V.I.P. bear, please turn to front and back pages), accompanied by Klak the clown and Pipiol the ballet dancer, flew into the Isle of Man in July to meet the children of Spastics Pool supporters. The Pool's representative, Laurie Watterson, made sure that the visit would not go unnoticed by broadcasting on Manx Radio and notifying the Press.

Boppo and his friends took a horse tram from the Douglas terminus for a ride along the promenade. This was followed by a visit to the children's ward of Nobles Hospital, Douglas, where they were greeted by the Matron, Mrs. A. Corteen, which delighted children and staff. Later in the afternoon, Boppo, Klak and Pipiol made friends with numerous children on the Douglas beach, and their parents gathered round and took photographs of this unusual event.

The highlight of the visit came when about 1,000 people, most of them children, congregated at the Sea Terminal to meet Boppo and his friends. The evening programme included the presentation by Boppo of a cheque for £500 to the Ballamona Hospital League of Friends of the Good Neighbours Trust. The Manx National Youth Band, under its conductor, Jim Crosbie, provided the evening's musical entertainment. Application forms for membership of



Boppo presents a cheque for £500 to Mr. George Waft, Secretary to the League of Friends of the Ballamona Hospital on behalf of the Good Neighbours Trust.

Boppo's Club seemed to disappear at an alarming rate, which was an indication of the success of the presentation.

Boppo was accompanied by a team from Top Ten Promotions, Bristol, led by Director Roy Laver, and they also had an interesting programme during their visit. Mr. Laver, John Pritchard and Grant Witchell, met the Mayor of Douglas, Councillor John Parkinson, who asked them to convey his respects and a pennant to the Lord Mayor of Bristol on the occasion of the city celebrating the 600th anniversary of the signing of the charter.

The visit of Boppo and the team from Top Ten was widely publicised on the Manx Radio and the newspapers. It was felt that this was a successful operation, and paved the way for the official "launch" of Boppo at Chesington Zoo and at Society H.Q.



A delighted patient at Nobles Hospital has a word with Boppo.

Cameras turn on life at Meldreth

A TELEVISION film showing just what happens to a fortunate few of the many thousands of children born so severely handicapped that they are deemed 'ineducable', is being made at the Society's Meldreth Manor School.

The producer is Ron Tanner aged 26 who made a film for "Help the Aged" campaign two years ago, and for the last two months he has been living down at Meldreth.

The first fortnight was spent familiarising the children with the equipment so that they would get used to the whirring of cameras, the bright lights, and the sudden appearance of microphones in front of their faces.

"The familiarisation was very important — we had to give

the children and the staff time to accept my cameraman Glyn Saunders and me before we actually started work", Ron explained.

"At first of course we didn't understand why the children were waving their hands in the air but now we've learnt it's the Paget mime system and we can communicate back. The other Friday two of them rushed off with the portable lamps and we had to chase them but we didn't mind because it showed they were relating to us. In fact they wanted to film us for a change, so we let one boy have a go and hold the camera.

"There is no script or story line to the film—it is cinema verite and we're just letting the cameras roll and filming what happens," said Ron. "The objective is to show that these children were labelled absolutely ineducable like thousands of others, but instead of being dumped in hospital or an institution, they've come to Meldreth and they're learning and they're actually having valuable and worthwhile lives. They're not write-offs.

"In fact, after two days with them, we got over our initial feeling of being unable to communicate and saw them just as normal kids—wanting to help push our trolleys and getting into mischief. We were amazed at how much they knew and how much they could communicate once you established a form of communication. You can see them learning; it is an actual tangible thing."

The half-hour film has no title as yet and will have no commentary—it will tell Meldreth "as it is."



The new range of collectors' gifts were on display at Westmorland House during July, which gave staff and visitors the opportunity of seeing the first class items. Our picture shows, left, Ken Pole, Director of Goodprint Supplies, discussing one of the items with Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kenyon.



A happy day for Mr. and Mrs. Jack Revell of Nottingham when they received the keys of their Vauxhall Viva car from Miss Great Britain contestant Elizabeth Robinson. Picture also shows, left, Spastics Pool area representative, Mr. W. Taylor.

Tasty ideas for summer dishes — and the month's best buys



USING up left-over chicken provides scope for serving really delicious meals without the family even realising they are eating the bits and pieces. If you don't believe this then try the following recipe as a cold dish on a hot summer's day.

PLUM CHICKEN FLAN
(serves 4)

6 oz. flour
4 oz. home-produced butter
Salt
2 British Eggs
1 teaspoon rosemary
12 oz cooked chicken, chopped
½ pint thick white sauce
1 x 5 oz. carton soured cream
12 oz. home-grown plums
½ lettuce, shredded
Make a rich shortcrust pastry, using the flour, butter, salt, rosemary and one egg. Line a seven-inch flan and bake blind. Cook half a pound of the plums, and pulp. To the warm white sauce, add the other egg, plum pulp, cream and chicken. Cool. Line

the flan case with the shredded lettuce, pile in the chicken mixture and garnish with the remaining plums cut in slices.

SAVOURY SCOTCH EGGS
(serves 4)

4 British eggs, hard-boiled
1 lb. sausage meat
seasoned flour
beaten egg for coating
dried breadcrumbs
2 teaspoonsful dried sage
2 oz. finely grated Cheddar cheese
salad garnish

Shell the eggs and dip in seasoned flour. Wrap in sausage meat and make sure that the joints are well sealed. Dip in seasoned flour and in beaten egg and then coat carefully in dried breadcrumbs sage and cheese mixed together. Pat the coating on very well and dip again in egg and crumb mixture. Have a pan of deep fat faintly smoking before lowering the Scotch eggs carefully into it. Deep fry gently until crisp and brown and cooked through. Drain well.

BUYING home-grown fruit and vegetables will present no shopping problems during August, especially if housewives are armed with a few facts before making their purchases. Like, for instance:—
Runner beans should be young and fresh. For top quality look for "stick" beans. They are the ones grown on bean poles and are usually straighter and cleaner than the "field" ones. The pods should be green and succulent, the developing seeds small and juicy.

Look out for a choice of different plums. First to arrive is Czar, a large dark plum, suitable for dessert when it's ripe, equally good for cooking. Next there is a variety called Pershott, a medium-sized, yellow fruit that tapers sharply at the stalk end.
Later in the month that famous plum, Victoria, puts in an appearance. It is large, oval, has a yellow flush on a deep scarlet skin and golden yellow flesh. If it's a tasty jam-making plum you require ask for Belle de Louvain which is picked towards the end of August.

Dessert plums should be ripe, but firm. They may need to be kept for a day or two to ripen properly. For cooking, though, choose culinary varieties. They are usually a little cheaper than dessert ones.

If you haven't made your raspberry jam yet, do it quickly; these berries won't be around for long!

Why Wakes Hall has star quality



Variety is the spice of life for residents at Wakes Hall, the centre of new ideas

friendly people are, you can't expect the residents to live in each other's pockets every waking hour," says Mr. Chapleo.

PEOPLE in the entertainment world are individualists all, so it is perhaps not surprising that the Stars Organisation for Spastics has done everything possible to ensure that the men and women living at Wakes Hall, the centre it maintains in Essex, will lead a life rich in the qualities which handicapped people in a residential centre hold dear. Lack of rules and regimentation, a freedom of choice, and the right to be an individual person as well as a member of a community, however close and happy it might be.

"Our aim is to make this a nice place to live", says Mr. Eddie Chapleo, whose official title of "Principal" is almost misleading to describe somebody who is such a friend of the residents of Wakes Hall. Or his wife Monique's title of "Matron" inadequate to describe someone who contributes so much to the unique atmosphere. They realise that it is unrealistic to expect 25 men and women to live, work, and spend their leisure time *en masse*, and then expect them to find each other's conversation stimulating. So variety is the spice of life at Wakes Hall, not only because it means a more enjoyable life for the men and women "but it

gives them something new to talk about."

For a start, there has been a big effort to provide as many attractive single bed-sitting rooms as possible, and new extensions will provide even more. There are some spastics who like to share a room, but the majority clearly prefer to have their own private "home" within the home. The single rooms at Wakes Hall are very attractive, and anyone who thinks a home for spastics must be "institutional" should see them. Again, a real effort has been made to provide an individual touch—decoration colours and soft furnishing materials are different in each room—and most of the occupants have their own TV sets so they can withdraw from communal life when they wish.

"You have to understand that however



Mr. Eddie Chapleo is the popular Principal at Wakes Hall. Picture left: Happy faces in the busy workshop.

"They need to get away from each other, so we are also providing more lounge space. Also, we never take everybody out together in great communal outings.

"After all, not everyone's interests are exactly the same as everybody else's. This afternoon, for instance, everyone is free because we work a 4½ day week in the workshop, and some have gone to the seaside at Walton, others have gone out shopping, some are writing letters with the aid of our voluntary helpers, some are watching racing on the TV

Picture at top of page is an exterior view of Wakes Hall. Second picture from top shows the pleasant dining room with the centre's French chef, Francois Lebat, serving a special dessert to the residents. Picture above shows one of the greenhouses where residents enjoy lending a hand at peak seasons. Picture, right, sums up the special flavour of Wakes Hall and the close contact maintained by the members of the Stars Organisation for Spastics with the residents at the centre. Here entertainer Libby Morris is having a chat with Rosina Hebden and Betty Firman. On the right is houseparent Paul Connolly.



ality



spice of ts at

and some are just sitting in the sun and having a chat!"

Wakes Hall is very much a part of the local community in the village of Wakes Colne, set in the rolling Essex countryside, but close enough to Colchester for the residents to enjoy the amenities of a town. In that Essex-Suffolk border area everybody knows about the centre and the people who live there. This is partly due, of course, to the famous names who "drop in" so often, because the members of the S.O.S. keep a very close contact with their friends at Wakes Hall, and local press publicity keeps the centre in the public eye.

Often, though, the stars' visits are quite personal. Roger Moore, for instance, made it one of his first duties as new Chairman of the S.O.S. to call on the centre and really get to know the residents and the staff. Then it was a case of no publicity, because he said his visit was as a friend, not as a film star currently enjoying even greater fame as the new James Bond. Future visits, though, will probably be photographed and publicised, because the centre, like all voluntary efforts for spastics, depends on public support.

Certainly the Wakes Hall residents go out and about to meet local people. Many go regularly to the theatre in Colchester, others join local bingo sessions, or belong to local organisations like Toc H and the W.I., and the village pub is a popular place to meet friends.

"No, of course, we don't have any rules," said Mr. Chapleo in reply to the inevitable question. "If they want to go out, they do. The residents

— and how the famous raise all that money



HOW does the Stars Organisation for Spastics raise the large sums of money necessary to maintain Wakes Hall and Colwall Court, and to build a new centre in London? One of the ways is shown in the picture taken at the open day of Colwall Court holiday home for spastic children at Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex. Well over 2,000 visitors attended, and show business personalities were out in full force helping to boost funds.

Television actor Edward Woodward organised the bowling and rifle-shooting competitions. David Jacobs ran a produce stall and Leslie Crowther sold signed pictures of the stars.

"Chitty" there

Among those helping out on other stalls were Joy Adamson, Eve Boswell, Patrick Cargill, Dickie Henderson, Jack Howarth, Vera Lynn, Francis Matthews and Pierre Picton, Chairman of Colwall Court Management Committee. Mr. Picton, ("Pierre the Clown,") had brought along his well-known car, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang which proved very popular with young visitors.

The opening ceremony was performed by David Jacobs, Vice-Chairman of the S.O.S., who looked back to the time when Colwall Court was first opened in 1959, in the teeth of opposition from the local council. "It was a rotten battle," he said, "But it was the only time we have had enemies in Bexhill. Since then we have met with warm affection and friendship."

Total up

Mr. Jacobs added that 23 children were able to stay at the home each week at a cost of more than £30 per head, most of which was paid from Colwall Court funds.

The open day raised over £1,800 — about £700 more than last year.

Now—can you spot the stars at Colwall Court. Those in the picture include Joy Adamson, Eve Boswell, Patrick Cargill, Leslie Crowther, Dickie Henderson, Jack Howarth, David Jacobs, Vera Lynn, Francis Matthews, Pierre Picton and Edward Woodward. How many can you identify?



Above: Wakes Hall residents are part of the local community, and pictured enjoying an evening at the village pub are John Mathews, Ken Warden and Austin Byrne. Pictured right is resident Queenie Hostetter, who enjoys her job in the workshop. Below: Austin Byrne runs the successful shop at Wakes Hall from his wheelchair. He and Ian Root, who works with him, are surrounded by the enormous selection of attractive goods for sale.



Cont. on page 8



Pictured after their wedding at Etruria Parish Church, Staffordshire, are spastics Brenda Bennett and David John Booth. Picture by courtesy of Staffordshire Weekly Sentinel

MORE SPACE AT CAMBORNE

A FINE new extension has been opened at Gladys Holman House, the Society's adult residential centre at Camborne in Cornwall.

This provides a large modern workshop, reached from the house by a covered way. The new extension gives more light and spacious working conditions for the residents. It will also allow 10 spastics living locally to come in on a daily basis.

Tourists buy

The Camborne centre contributes to the Cornish tourist industry by making attractive jewellery and ornaments from polished stone quarried locally. Some of the residents prefer traditional craft occupations to jewellery making, and the new workshop will enable both types of work to be carried on in comfort, as well as a certain amount of sub-contract employment.

The old workshop at the centre has been converted into four new bedrooms, enabling more residents to have single rooms.

The new extension was officially opened by Mr. James Holman, whose family formerly owned the house. He

was welcomed by Mrs. Joyce Smith, Chairman of the West Regional Co-ordinating Committee, and a member of the Society's Executive Council.

After Mr. Holman's opening address, a plaque was unveiled by Mrs. Holman. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Noel Fiddes, Chairman of Gladys Holman House Management Committee, and seconded by Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society. Prayers and Blessing at the ceremony were given by the Dean of Truro, the Very Rev. H. M. Lloyd, D.S.O.

Report finds poor job prospects for school-leavers

The findings of a national enquiry into what happens to the young handicapped once they have left school, was published last month. Sponsored jointly by the Department of Health and Social Security, the Department of Education and Science and the Department of Employment, the enquiry made a detailed study of "the range, availability and suitability of the facilities for the further education, training and employment of handicapped school-leavers, in relation to their estimated capacity to benefit from what is available to them".

Entitled "Handicapped School leavers", it was written by Bob and Linda Tuckey and Dr. Jessie Parfitt and is a report of the National Children's Bureau.

The enquiry started with a questionnaire sent to school leavers in 1968, their last year, and then followed up in 1971. There were 1,373 young people in the survey, and they had a variety of handicaps from being educationally sub-normal to hearing and sight impaired.

As a result of the findings, which showed that there was very little in the way of further training being given and many were stuck at home instead of being able to achieve their work potential in employment, the report makes three suggestions. These are that there is a major need for identification of ultimate responsibility for the provision of education, training and welfare, as this is at present fragmented between departments, institutions and individuals.

Secondly, co-ordination and co-operation between all the departments and people involved and thirdly, flexibility.

It recommends that the handicapped school leaver should still be the statutory responsibility of education departments two years after leaving school. The responsibility should be vested in the further education departments of each authority in the person of an

officer designated specially for the task. And further, that once having left school, each child should have an identified social worker whose function would be to work closely with the further education officer to ensure that the total welfare and emotional needs of both the school leaver and the family were met.

Co-ordination and co-operation between these officers would naturally make it easier for other people involved in the case. Flexibility would then cut through unnecessary red-tape which causes "so much confusion, delay and frustration."

The report wants more work experience courses for the over-16s and closer co-ordination with industry, careful consideration of the need of each handicapped group with reference to specialised training, and even suggests that Trade Unions should be brought in "to look more carefully at the rights of handicapped juveniles and young persons in employment especially when they are threatened with redundancy, basically on account of their handicap."

There were cases, the investigators found, where children the school heads had been confident would get employment, were out of work and instances of those they thought unemployed, holding down paid jobs.

Of those who had been at the home continuously on leaving school, two thirds had been rated as suitable for further education or training.

"They feel dumped"

Dr. Donald Gough, The Spastics Society's Consultant psychiatrist, commented: "To be out of work is disillusioning and disheartening and can make the school leavers feel bitter. After all, at school they travel in hope, progressing from one form to another and having done their best it's a terrible blow when the climbing process stops. They feel dumped."

The Social Work and Employment Department of the Society is publishing a follow-up study of leavers from Society schools in October. A two-part study, it looks at those who left the Thomas Delarue, Wilfred Pickles and Craig-Y-Pare schools between 1966-70, and leavers from Irton Hall, Ingfield Manor and Meldreth Manor between 1966-70 and 1970-73.

There will also be an Oxford Conference on Further Education in September titled "Towards Maturity". It is a multi-disciplinary group of 36 who are all connected with further education, care staff, therapists, teachers and psychiatrists.

Miss Margaret Morgan, Head of the Department, said, "Further education for the handicapped is not a new idea, discussions and proposals have been going on for a long time. Although matters have improved, there's a long way to go. Further Education does broaden the school leavers' outlook and is very valuable."

"One has to recognise though, that for some of the very heavily handicapped full time employment is out of the question because of the nature of their disability. We can't assume that all school leavers are going to be employable just because we give them further training—there will always be those who no matter how much training they get won't have a job. And the further education may mean that it will take them two years or however long the education is, to accept the fact. So we have to find an acceptable alternative. After all they all want to work—it's the one thing they want to do above anything else."

Another Judo success for Tim

LAST month Spastics News told the story of Tim Ritchings, Britain's only spastic judo teacher.

Now Tim, aged 23 has a special cause for celebration—he has just heard that his attempts to get a further grade from third Kyu to



Tim Ritchings

second Kyu have been successful. He has risen from green belt to blue belt. He's over the moon about it said Mr. J. Dellar Principal of Gladys Holman House, Camborne, Cornwall, The Spastics Society Centre where Tim is a resident, "as he's been trying for some time."

Technical

Tim is of course tested on his technical knowledge of judo rather than it's practical application.

Another cause for pride is the fact that one of his pupils has got a sixth Kyu and gone from white belt to yellow.

Tim points out that to call him a judo wrestler as we did last month is not strictly accurate—people who are judo wrestlers are known as Judokas. And obviously, we are not going to argue with a Judo expert!

"James Bond" battles for disabled on tax

ROGER Moore, the new James Bond, has hit out at the British tax system because, he said, it was weighed heavily against both charities and the disabled.

Speaking at a Variety Club lunch at the New Selfridge Hotel in honour of the work of the Stars Organisation for

Spastics, he said that charitable donations should not be taxed. He compared it with the American system where donations carry no tax.

Roger, whose "Live and Let Die" Bond film was premiered in July, also said that the working disabled should receive special tax relief.

"Often crippled people wear out more shoes than most people and incur extra costs such as taxis and similar expenses. But they get no concessions," he said.

A £4,000 cheque was handed over to the S.O.S. and, while thanking the stars present for their generosity, Roger, who is S.O.S. Chairman,

explained that the cheque would keep their holiday home at Bexhill open for just 50 days.

According to Mr. Moore, the home, Colwall Court, provides some spastic children with their first view of the sea, and some mothers with their first rest since their handicapped child was born.

Wakes Hall Centre has star quality

Cont. from page 7

work has made it possible. The profit also demonstrates that in spite of their handicaps they are doing a useful job of work with commercial value.

Variety being the spice of life at Wakes Hall, as we have seen, the fact that the centre is in the horticulture business too, means that the residents who fancy a change from the workshop can lend a

hand in the greenhouses.

With its efficiently-run enterprises, the residents do everything possible to help themselves, but inflation, ever-rising costs, and the large sums of money needed to run a residential centre for the severely handicapped, means a heavy annual burden for the members of the Stars Organisation for Spastics. They work like trojans to raise the money needed for Wakes Hall, and their holiday centre

for spastics, Colwall Court, at Bexhill. In addition, the S.O.S. is going to build a home for spastics at Camberwell in London, which will mean even more heavy annual running costs to meet each year.

At Wakes Hall, the S.O.S. is helped by a splendid group of people called the Friends of Wakes Hall, who are exactly that. "The Friends are a real blessing to us, and make us feel we

really have the community on our side," said Mr. Chapleo eloquently. "They raise a lot of money and help to take the burden off the S.O.S., but also they help in so many other ways. They are real supporters and helpers, doing everything from raising money for extensions, to organising outings for the residents. Their successful fund raising is immensely appreciated, but so is the genuine friendship and concern they offer to our residents.

We are very lucky to have them."

Perhaps there is something special about the Hall which makes people want to help. Perhaps there is something special about Eddie and Monique Chapleo, who work so very hard to ensure that the residents live happy, fulfilled lives. Perhaps it is the close involvement of

warm-hearted personalities of the entertainment world who work so hard to keep the money rolling in because they have a real affection for the spastics there.

Whatever it is, it works, and as a happy home for spastics, Wakes Hall has star quality.

S.J.

Spastic spends his holiday helping others

MR. Ronald Walker of Hull is a spastic confined to a wheelchair. But he has spent his annual holiday helping to build a children's adventure play ground.

Digging holes, sawing wood and hammering in nails, is all part of his holiday at an international work camp in Brande, Denmark, where the able-bodied and disabled from eleven countries work alongside each other.

Mr. Walker is one of eight handicapped people taking part in the project, which is designed to show that disabled people are just as capable of helping the community as anyone else and also the ease in which they can be integrated.

Mr. Walker said: "I have been abroad before, but only on organised holidays for the

handicapped. I like being part of a group that is producing something worthwhile for the community and being able to meet people from other countries on equal terms."

There are no nurses or helpers attached to the scheme, to reinforce the fact that the disabled are there not as medical cases but as part of the group.

Mr. Leif Lohde, joint leader at the camp, is paralysed from the neck down. He said: "The able-bodied are not here to look after the handicapped — we are all here to work together equally. People in society outside are divided into groups. They put mentally retarded in one place, old people in another, and the physically handicapped in yet another."

"But this camp proves that when people are together in the same economic and social circumstances it is possible for us with our different cultural, political and religious backgrounds, to work together without difficulties."

THEY CALL HIM A "MIRACLE" BABY



— and disabled couple are happiest parents in Derby

ANN Gibbs, 28, was warned never to have a baby when she married nine years ago, because the risks to her were too great. But a few weeks ago Ann, a spastic, gave birth to a perfectly healthy and normal baby boy.

The story of her "miracle" child was told in the Derby Evening Telegraph by Lucy Orgill.

Ann, of Alvaston, Derby, was born with a degree of handicap which meant a series of 20 operations — the first when she was only a month old, for she had twisted feet, a dislocated hip, and a stiff knee. Much of her childhood was spent in hospital and she was six before she started to walk — with the aid of her doll's pram. Ann attended Theives' Wood Residential School and went on to St. Loye's College, Exeter, founded by Douglas Bader, where she studied computer work.

It was there she met her husband Bob, who had curvature of the spine, then a trainee foreman. Her wedding day was the first time she wore shoes without calipers.

Ann and Bob are still getting used to the wonder of having a baby of their very own. He is called Paul Jones and weighed 6lb. 10oz. when he was delivered by Caesarian section. Ann is only 4ft. 2in., and she recalled as she cuddled Paul, "I was advised not to have children, and in fact never thought I would, but determination won through."

Just as thrilled with baby Paul is the Derby and District Spastics Society and the local

'62 club, of which Ann has been a member. Ann, who received dozens of cards and gifts from well-wishers all over Derby — from hospital staff to the Rycote Centre where she used to work — said: "I would just like to thank everyone and let them know that mother, father and son are doing very well." Picture of the happy family, by courtesy of the Derby Evening Telegraph.

Extensions of grants

THIS month sees the start of an extension of grants to children under 10 who are congenitally disabled, from the Rowntree fund. Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Social Services, has been answering questions in the House of Commons on the fund which has £3m in trust for congenitally disabled children.

Sir Keith said that up to last month the trust had received 877 applications and made 161 payments and only two per cent of applications had been refused. So far, payments totalling £16,420 had been made.

It was pointed out that this showed that out of the vast number of disabled children known, very few families either understood or knew of the existence of the grants.

Sir Keith said that it was too soon to say whether the Government intended to commit further funds after the £3m had been allocated, but he expected an increase in the rate of applications to the fund, which was hard to anticipate.

Her colourful dream comes true

DURING Spastics Week earlier in the summer, Eileen Fletcher, 41, of Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire, was the subject of an article in her local newspaper.

This described the life and problems of a severely handicapped woman living at home with her mother, and told how

From Croydon to Holland for strange coincidence

DURING a Garden Fete held by Croydon and District Spastics Society a balloon race was organised. Later, one of the tickets was returned from Holland, accompanied by the following letter:—

"Sunday last my daughter found the ticket of your balloon race. It lay on the waterway of a meadow, we life around meadows on a farm. The balloon was still a balloon only smaller. But now comes the strangest; my daughter is slight spastics that also i hope double your race a great success. I finish this letter because i find it badly difficult to write english. I have learned many years ago english at school but I am forgotten the most. I hope you can understand this letter, Good-bye.

J. de Vries-Vos."

The fete, which raised £425, was just one of many successful events held by the Croydon group this year.

In March a house-to-house collection was held which raised £5,600. This was £957 up on the 1972 total, itself a record at that time.

Later on in the year, 38 Flag Day helpers collected £326. Spastic members Wilf Ward and his wife Avril were responsible for £82.14 of this total.

Afterwards, Dennis and Brenda Mabey handed over £512 to the group as the profit on a darts tournament. This couple, who are parents of a child at the group's day centre, have been running annual tournaments entirely on their own for the past three years. During that time they have raised a total of more than £1,300.

Following this, the Scarlets, a local club, staged a football match against a Top Ten XI, at which group members provided refreshments and organised raffles, etc. The profit of £325 went to Croydon and District Spastics Society.

How to improve leisure life of the handicapped

AT a time when the quality of living rather than the quantity of provision, begins to assume a new significance in the lives of severely disabled people, it is not surprising that attention turns to problems of leisure and how we spend it. For those who are destined to spend a major part of their lives in care, or at home, leisure will have a special significance. It was to study some of these problems and to exchange ideas and experiences that the International Cerebral Palsy Society organised its first seminar on "Sports and Leisure" in Sweden.

Delegates from as far afield as Western Australia, Canada, U.S.A., Yugoslavia, Scandinavia, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Holland contributed to fundamental discussions upon the nature of leisure and the facilities that are made available for severely disabled people to enjoy it.

Not surprisingly, there appeared to be quite major constrictures on what was available and what people were permitted to do. More serious perhaps was the fact that many of these constrictures stemmed from a general lack of understanding at both public and professional levels about what the disabled themselves either could or wanted to do. And standards the world over tended to vary as well. What was now regarded in some areas as old hat — a holiday with a large group of other disabled people spent under canvas — was still something entirely new to others for whom the prospect of a holiday at all was something of a novelty.

Golf, yachting, climbing, skiing, gliding, were seen by some to be very much within reach of many disabled people. For them as, indeed, for the majority of people with severe disabilities, the problem was not so much what to do, as how to do it, within the limits and understanding of their own local communities. And here we were back with the old and ever present issues of integration and community understanding.



Wheelchair dancing has become tremendously popular with spastics in Great Britain, and is now spreading throughout the world. In the picture Mr. A. T. S. Edwards, The Spastics Society's physical education adviser, is teaching dancing to Swedish youngsters.

Competitive sport featured high on the discussion list, largely due to the growing interest in "national games" for those with cerebral palsy. The United Kingdom had reached its fifth Spastics Games, while France has held its first. Other countries, Sweden and West Germany amongst them, were now taking the whole affair very seriously. It was not surprising that there was considerable contention about the bases on which such events should be run, and the rules that should be used to govern them. A degree of unanimity was necessary if there were to be European and International Games, such as the international event to be run in London next summer by the I.C.P.S.

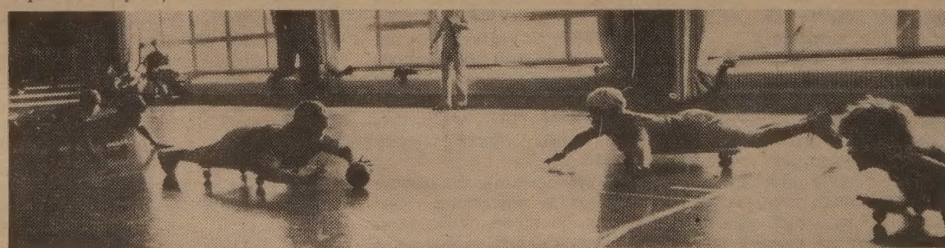
The contention, if this really was contention, was over the question of equality; should disabled people be equal in sport, should they

start equal, and should they have equal opportunities to finish equal?

Equality of opportunity one accepts as fundamental. But the protagonists of the principle that all disabled competitors should start equal found little sympathy with the majority.

Whatever else the seminar achieved, certainly it established what promises to be a continuing link between those whose job it is to stimulate and to improve the lives of those who are severely disabled. And what better place to have such discussions than in Sweden, where so much has been achieved for the disabled person? The seminar was attended by some 70 delegates and was run in association with The Spastics Society's equivalent in Sweden.

Derek Lancaster-Gaye





Reward for youthful helpers

The Devon and Exeter Spastics Society has provided a shield to be competed for by youth clubs in the area. This will be awarded annually to the club which raised the most money for the group.

This year's winner was Heavitree Youth Club, whose members collected £88.8 during Spastics Week.

Picture shows the Mayor of Exeter, Alderman Ernest Tozer, presenting the shield to Paul Townsend, Chairman of Heavitree Youth Club. Looking on are Mrs. Kay Vranich, Secretary of Devon and Exeter Spastics Society, and Youth Club members.

Picture by courtesy of Express and Echo, Exeter.

Golden night for Phoenix

TUESDAY night—10th July—was golden night at the Golden Anchor Hotel in Evelena Road, Peckham, when Shaw Taylor, the well-known commentator of "Police Five Special," was presented with a cheque for £100 by the customers of the hotel.

The money had been raised to help the building costs of the Phoenix Centre for spastic children at Farnborough Hospital, Kent, and the Chairman of the Friends of Phoenix, Mr. Ian Speake, attended to thank the customers on behalf of the youngsters who are being helped towards a happier life in the community.

With his usual involvement in describing criminal activities, Mr. Taylor made certain that the ink on the bank notes presented to him was thoroughly dry before accepting them!

The many customers and "Friends" present were provided with solid refreshment by "mine host," in addition to the alcoholic refreshment that abounded.

A ball organised by North West Surrey Group of The Spastics Society has made a profit of £2,500 for White Lodge Spastics Centre, Chertsey.

Wolverhampton and District Spastics Society expect to have raised more than £1,000 from the annual sponsored walk around Dunstall racecourse.

Spastics brought "gaiety and laughter" to hotel

THE organisation of the first moon landing was simple compared to the detailed planning that took place in the operations room of the Clubs and Holidays Section at the Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre, London, in order to assemble hopeful holiday-makers from such far-flung cities as Plymouth, Leeds and Blackpool, at Gatwick airport at 7 a.m. for our holiday in Majorca.

To the immense relief of Bill Hargreaves, Senior Clubs and Holidays Officer, the leader of the party, and his anxious assistants waiting at Gatwick in the crisp morning air, names were ticked off the list as the all-night bus contingent from the North arrived, and individuals turned up from all corners of England for this important rendezvous. Eventually, with 44 heads counted, we were airborne, with 10 wheelchairs safely stowed in the luggage compartment.

For many of the party this was their first flight, but there had been no

were not to be disappointed.

A scrabble for baggage, a grabble for wheelchairs, and we were off in the waiting coach to the opu-



How unkind to throw such a pretty girl as Victoria Sims into the swimming pool—and fully dressed too. But she came up smiling as always.

Hotel Palma Nova.

After lunch the hotel pool was the first point of exploration and a very beautiful one it was, with little palm thatched umbrellas all around. We soon discovered that one had to be up early to secure a little spot of welcome shade, but after a few days we became quite crafty at it.

The management of the hotel kindly provided us with a champagne reception that first evening, and over the bubbly we all got to know each other a little better and friendships commenced. After dinner we danced to the hotel band until midnight, when some stalwarts even found the energy to go on to the hotel discotheque until the early hours of the morning.

Excursions were planned on the spot with the help of our dark-eyed, handsome Majorcan courier. "Planned" is perhaps not the right word here, as with this courier one never quite knew what would happen next, but if things went wrong he apologised with such a flashing smile that we usually for-

gave him and hoped for better luck next time. In fact, each day had an element of mystery about it as we never knew from one hour to the next exactly what time we were departing on a tour and to where, but we decided it was all one in the Majorcan sunshine and tried to develop their philosophy.

In many ways this holiday was something of an experiment, as the hotel was very large and our party formed just a small section of the 500 guests. However, in spite of a few curious glances at first, we soon fitted happily into the scene. We had our meals in the main dining room because although the head waiter had offered us a small dining room for our exclusive use, after one meal there we felt cut off, and decided in any case it was a pity to deprive the rest of the guests of our company!

This is not so conceited as it sounds, because on the evening we went to a night club anxious faces enquired next day where we had been? "The



Philip Bradshaw seeks a tycoon tan by the swimming pool.

place was dead without you. You are staying in tonight?" one guest pleaded. Apparently, the dancing in the hotel that evening had been pretty dull without our gaily dressed girls and fellows to enliven it. And one of the nicest compliments we had was from another guest, who said: "There was no gaiety or laughter in this hotel until your party arrived."

And we certainly had some characters in our group. Our youngest member, Rob, soon got to know nearly everyone in

Glasgow workers need minibuses

THE idea that spastics are condemned from birth to a life of helpless futility has been disproved for years at the spastics work training centre at Hillington, Glasgow, where 86 young men and women are currently working flat out to complete contracts before the holidays.

Recently they extended their range of activity by securing from a local manufacturer the task of re-winding daily anything up to 160 cones of cotton yard onto larger cones; they have also started seaming and labelling towelling mats and assembling traffic sign brackets. All this in addition to manufacturing paper sacks, making cushions, printing book matches for weddings, assembling micro-switch plungers, and a dozen other fairly intricate jobs.

"A lot of it is valuable in that it gives the boys experience in the handling of machinery," says supervisor Alastair Hosie.

"What limits us at present is not lack of work, but the capacity of the factory and lack of transport. The former will be solved when we move to a larger building next year, but the latter is more difficult.

"If we could get two or three more minibuses we could employ a substantially greater number of people, particularly from the north side of Glasgow. But because the buses have to be custom-built with lifts to cater for people in chairs, they are terribly expensive—more than £4,000 each—and we simply haven't got that kind of money," he says.

Sherrards romance led to wedding

THE wedding took place recently of Glanville Bebb of Cwmparc, Rhondda Valley, Glamorgan, and Sharron O'Sullivan of Newport, Monmouthshire. The couple met when both were trainees at the Society's Sherrards Training Centre in Hertfordshire.

After completing his course, Glanville obtained employment with an engineering firm near his home. He soon saved enough money to buy a second-hand car and, having passed his driving test, was able to renew his friendship with Sharron, who by now also had a job near her home in Newport.

The wedding service at St. Michael's R.C. Church, Newport, was interpreted into sign language for Sharron, who is deaf and dumb as well as being a spastic.

After a honeymoon on the Adriatic coast of Italy, the couple moved into a modernised house at Cwmparc, which has been specially adapted to their needs.

Children are "adopted"

SOME of the older children attending the cerebral Palsy Unit at Cosham in Hampshire have been "adopted" by second-year pupils of Wakeford Secondary School, Havant.

The scheme began when the Wakeford pupils decided that they wanted to do something for charity. They started occasional visits to the spastic children and organised fund-raising events for them.

Then, in the words of Miss Rosemary Wood, the Wakeford form teacher, the project just snowballed.

She said: "It's a wonderful idea because it gives everyone the chance to join in. No matter what their academic ability, everyone can help equally." With the help of teachers, the Wakeford pupils have supervised art and music lessons for the spastic children and have also taken them on a tour of their own school.



Gillian Baker enjoys a cool drink at the bar.

the hotel, mostly by means of jumping on them in the swimming pool, so we appointed him our Public Relations Man.

And our girls? They were great too, and always looked their gorgeous best for the evening functions.

It was on such evenings that that much over-used and over-discussed word "integration" took on its real meaning, and was happily happening on the strength of the personality and charm of the individuals within the group.

The packing and leave-taking were sad, of course, but whereas usually it's the holidaymakers who dissolve into floods of tears, this time it was the people we were leaving behind, while our coach-load looked on rather incredulously. All this foreign travel is obviously making them blasé! Clutching colourful, assorted parcels, brandy for Dad at £1 per litre, or a huge flamenco doll for Mum, our untanned, satisfied contingent ascended the steps of the plane, with a splendid new guitar bringing up the rear, giving our exit a happy hippy flavour at the close of a holiday full of fun, new friends and new experiences.

So, whether you want to Renta-Happy Crowd to give your hotel in the sun some life next summer, or would merely like to join one of our holiday parties abroad or in England, please contact the Holiday Organiser, Miss Denise Stroud, The Spastics Society, 16 Fitzroy Square, London, W1P 5HQ. Telephone: 01-387 9571. The Holiday Brochure for 1974 will be ready at the end of this year.

JOYCE LAVENDER

Judith Warren and Ernest Barnes put the finishing touches to a Meccano model of a windmill water pump.



Army will help build Cornish field centre

FURTHER details are now available of the unique £184,000 holiday and field study centre for the handicapped which, as reported earlier in Spastics News, is to be built in a tiny village in Cornwall by The Spastics Society — and the Army. The centre at Churchtown Farm, Lanlivery, will be the only study centre for handicapped people in Britain. Students will be able to study natural science as well as taking courses in climbing, pony trekking, camping, and canoeing.

Most of the cost of the project will be borne by The Spastics Society and the local group, the Cornish Spastics Society. The 4½ acre site has been donated by their chairman Mr. Philip Varcoe, and the Royal Engineers based at Hampshire have offered to build foundations and groundworks for the cost of materials and the petrol to drive their equipment.

Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, said that the study centre would be for all handicapped people and will house 24 students from all over the British Isles. It will provide short courses for several hundred students every year and will also provide hobby orientated holidays for many more.

Appeal

He added that in the autumn the Society hope to launch an appeal for some of the capital cost of the centre.

The field study centre is unique as it is built exclusively for disabled people. No other field study centre has specialist facilities for the handicapped. Apart from carefully designed accommodation, corridors, washing facilities, swimming

pool etc. are designed for those with physical or mental disabilities.

Mr. Loring said "This kind of centre will provide both further education and stimulus for handicapped people. The setting is attractive but the centre is practical."

Counsellors will confer

THE Sixth International Round Table for the Advancement of Counselling will be held at Churchill College, Cambridge, from Sunday, April 7th, to Thursday, April 11th, 1974.

The conference is entitled 'Counselling, the Community and Society' and its main themes will be Analysis of Counselling in Different Societies and Cultures, (Speaker, Professor C. Gilbert Wrenn, Distinguished Professor Under Endowment, Malalester College, St. Paul's, Minnesota, U.S.A.); and Counselling in Different Settings within a Society (Speaker: Professor Paul Halmos, Department of Sociology, University College, Cardiff, Wales.)

The last day of application to join the Conference will be December 31st, 1973. Further details may be obtained from: H. Z. Hoxter, Chairman, International Round Table for the Advancement of Counselling, 64, West Ham Lane, London E15 4PT.

Spastics speak for themselves

"Nuts and bolts were flying like shrapnel"

Ernest Barnes, a resident at the Society's Drummonds Centre, at Feering, Essex, writes about his constructive hobby.

BEING a long - term service with the Society I have always been very keen on spastics doing things for themselves, but in latter years there seems to be a tendency for total care and attention. Many of our people seem content to sit around doing nothing all day, or doing things en masse at the instigation of the staff. There are some, however, like myself and a friend, who are always looking for things which have an end product.

About a year ago I had an idea. I thought that I might re-start the hobby of Meccano which I had found very helpful in my younger years, and with the help of cigarette coupons I obtained a No. 2 set. At first my friend showed little interest, as hitherto she had had no interest in mechanics at all. I made a small windmill, as I had very few parts at the time and, having nothing to do while I was working on it, she watched and became interested.

Problem

"Let's have a go," she said, and here I was faced with a problem, for Judith, although being able to stand quite easily, has acute athetosis of the shoulders and her first attempts proved to be pretty hopeless. Nuts, bolts and other parts were flying off the table like shrapnel, but she persevered, finding it easier on a board with a ridge round the edge. Now the big problem was that her mechanical and structural knowledge were still almost non-existent, but — and here I stress the value of Meccano — Judith learns fast, and in a few weeks she was looking at things with a constructional eye.

More parts

We found a shop in Colchester that sold Meccano parts, and we were able to gradually increase our set, and do away with the use of smaller parts, like too many angle-brackets.

When Judith went home for her holiday, she insisted on taking our set with her together with the book of models provided by the manufacturers for the No. 2 set. She was under the happy delusion that she would be able to easily build all the models in the book simply by following the drawings.

During the next four weeks she was sadly disillusioned. She soon discovered that bolts and nuts had an unfortunate habit of undoing themselves even when she thought that she had tightened them securely. (She had yet to learn, amongst many other things, that nuts and bolts are only really secure when they have been tightened with a spanner in one hand and a screw-driver in the other). She did, however, find that the easiest way for her to work with the Meccano was to kneel on her bedroom carpet with the parts on a tray, as nothing can fall off the floor, and she has continued like this ever since.

Designs

After our return to Drummonds, Judith acknowledged that the models in the book were only suitable for people with two able-bodied arms, and from then on she was content to allow me to design the models which we then built together. The next great step came when we bought some gear-wheels and pinions, and a clockwork motor with a reversing lever, so we were able to build models that could move and work. As we got more and larger parts we were able to dispense with a few of the smaller parts which Judith had found so awkward to work with.

This meant we could build much larger and stable models, and this was doubly satisfactory.

Later on we had a stroke of great good luck when one of the other residents offered us his very old set which he had used when younger, and we were very excited on the day his nephew brought this over for us. It was very old and rusty, and obviously had not been used for years, so we had to set to work rubbing all the rust off and generally cleaning the set. When we had done this we found that our efforts had been well worth the work, for we now had the equivalent of a number 10 set, and models which could be built with it were almost limitless.

Our first big attempt was

a dockside crane, and after about two days' thought I decided that the horizontal/vertical cantilever type would be the best for the first effort, as Judith still had no idea of the mechanics involved in building a crane, and was quite lost when I spoke about reduction gearing, roller bearings and pulley-blocks. Here again the knowledge which she gained from the building of this model was invaluable, for she learned how friction was largely overcome by the use of pulley-blocks, and how a source of power could be increased or decreased by the use of the appropriate gear-wheels and pinions. Her field of interests was very much widened, and the co-ordinated use of her hands has been increased.

I believe that Meccano could benefit many more spastics and other disabled people, both in the use of their hands and in the increase of their mechanical knowledge, so essential in this modern world of automation.

Parents hold a party

MR. and Mrs. John Emerson, parents of a little girl attending the White Lodge Centre for spastic children at Chertsey, Surrey, recently held a fund-raising party at their Windlesham home. This raised a total of £352 for White Lodge funds.

The party was attended by about 60 guests who enjoyed a spectacular buffet supper prepared by Mrs. Emerson and her friends. This was followed by dancing and singing to music provided by an electronic organ and record player.

Many superb prizes had been donated locally for the tombola and mock auction, which brought in a large part of the evening's proceeds.

Girls from St. Angela's Providence Convent, Palmers Green, Middlesex, have raised over £164 for spastics during a sponsored walk to and from Hyde Park.

Sister Susie members give again

THE Sister Susie Club of Swansea has presented its annual donation to the Swansea and District Spastic Association. This year's gift was £500, bringing the club's total contribution for spastics to more than £6,000 over a period of 20 years.

A SURPRISE gift of £100 from Germany was added to the £250 proceeds of a wine and cheese evening held in aid of spastics by the International Club of Darlington, Co. Durham.

The total amount was presented to the Percy Hedley Centre for Spastics in Newcastle, which has several pupils from the Darlington area.

Portsmouth Branches of the Association of Business and Professional Women have presented £245 to the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Alderman Miss Phyllis Loe, for her spastics fund.

THE Society's Ingfield Manor School at Billingshurst, Sussex, has attracted generous support from local fund-raisers in recent months. The Lord Leconfield Branch of the Pony Club held a sponsored ride in aid of Ingfield Manor and the Lifeboat Society. Ingfield's share of the proceeds was £283.

Since it opened, Gallery Thirty Three which holds art exhibitions in Billingshurst has sold catalogues in aid of the school. The total donation to date is £150.

The Friends of Ingfield also organised a Gourmet evening, with dishes provided by members and by local restaurants. The evening made a profit of £175.

A NEW local group of The Spastics Society has been formed at Rugby in Warwickshire.

The group has already raised over £200 with a series of coffee evenings and bring and buy sales.

Members plan to support existing organisations in Rugby who work with handicapped children.

Sewing up an ambulance

LARGE elephants and small dogs, peg bags and dressed dolls are all being manufactured at a great rate by staff of the Family Help Unit, "The Mount" at Nottingham, at the moment. And the cause of all this feverish activity is the goal of £2,000 needed for a new ambulance

to take the children to and from school, to hospital for treatment, and on outings to the sea.

The staff have committed themselves to supplying a stall in the main shopping centre of Nottingham, a garden party in August, a stall at the Goose Fair in October

as well as having goods for sale at "The Mount."

So many outlets mean a steady production of soft toys to keep the staff busy. There have already been other fund-raising activities which included a comic football match.



Boppo's own story of his launching day



The Press people who came to Chessington Zoo to hear about my Boppo the Bear book, thought I was safest inside a cage, and Francis Matthews entered into the spirit of the fun. Have you read about my book on the front page of Spastics News?



Though I am the gentlest of bears, and my only aim is to help raise money for my friends at The Spastics Society, even I thought this was a bit too much. Here you can see me trying to prevent Francis from leaving.



My actor friend decided, after the rough treatment in the previous picture, that he must rush to the Fortune Theatre, London, where he is starring in "Who's Who." Meanwhile, I concentrated on feeding another type of bear (real!) at the Zoo.



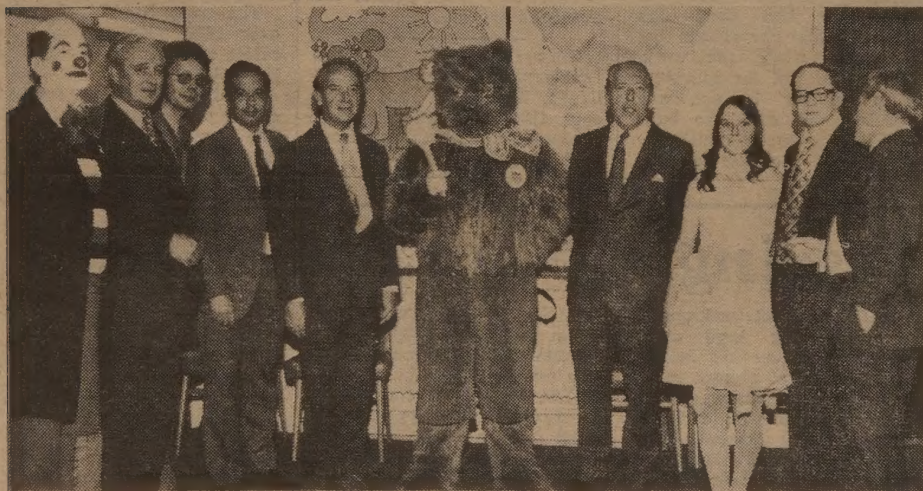
The children from Ingfield Manor School, which is run by The Spastics Society, said they hadn't met a bear who could read before. My book was "test marketed" by children, and they all loved it. Now they are all joining my Boppo Club.



There is Francis Matthews again, autographing copies of my book—and I'm not even in the photograph! Doesn't he realise I am the hero, and that the book is only the first of a whole series about my adventures?



Another picture without me, but I don't mind, because this one shows Bob Cotton, the author of the Boppo book, with Cameron, the man who drew all the super pictures of me. Naturally, they look proud of their handiwork.



Here I am with some of the guests who attended the Press reception at the Society's headquarters to meet me and hear about my book. From left to right around me, they are: Klak, the clown; Mr. R. Laver, Director, Top Ten Promotions; Cameron, the artist; Mr. J. A. Grenier, Executive Council of The Spastics Society; Mr. James Loring, the Society's Director; Mr. Don Long, Director of Top Ten Promotions; Pipiol, the ballet dancer; Mr. Charles Harvey, publisher, Purnell Books; and author Mr. Bob Cotton. Klak and Pipiol are featured in the book, and the people inside the costumes (and, whisper it, inside mine) are staff members from Top Ten Promotions, who are helping to make my book a success and raise money for spastics.

Andrew's victory

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is partially deaf and has little speech, he has learned to communicate via lip reading and mime. And right from the moment when he learned to love and trust his teachers and therapists, he has shown tremendous determination to become as independent as his dual handicap permits.

This is why all the staff at his school are so thrilled that he was awarded the Boreham Cup. Says Mrs. P. Pettit, superintendent physiotherapist at Meldreth Manor School, who has watched with pride Andrew's blossoming over the years:

"When he arrived back with

the Cup he took it straight to the Senior Houseparent and placed it on her TV set. The next day we put it in his classroom so that he could share the victory with the other children. But now we have it sited just inside the main hall with a photograph of Andrew, where everyone... the children, the staff, the cleaners, visitors, everyone... can see it. Because we believe Andrew's victory demonstrates clearly the progress that can be made by sub-normal children when they are given a real opportunity."

Andrew lives with foster parents, Mr. and Mrs. Searle, of Palm Hall, North Church Avenue, Winchester, Hants.

'62 Clubs look to the future

THE Association of '62 Clubs, the nationwide network of clubs run by spastics for spastics, is to hold its fifth International Conference at Reading University from 27th to 29th September.

The theme of the conference is "Towards the '80s," a look at the future social lives of the physically handicapped. Speakers will include Professor Jack Tizard, Miss Mary Robinson of the Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied Clubs, and Mrs. Pamela Annal of the Association of '62 Clubs Executive Committee.

Already well over 120 applications have been received, including some from Canada, and it is hoped that the event will prove as successful as have the previous conferences.

The social highlight of the meeting will be the usual five-course Gala dinner, followed by dancing. Applications to attend the conference should be made to the Clubs' Office, The Spastics Society, 16 Fitzroy Square, London, W1P 5HQ.

World-wide appeal of the Games

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which the children and adults welcome the opportunity of sporting competition.

When he opened the Games, Mr. Derek Lancaster-Gaye, the Society's Assistant Director, Services, gave special thanks to the Good Neighbours Trust for sponsoring the event again, and also to the teams of police cadets, who worked hard throughout the day in every capacity from starters and

scorers, to encouraging helpers.

And evidence of the handicapped helping the handicapped, came from wheelchair-bound Mr. Dave Winters, who has competed all over the world in European and Olympic Games for paraplegic sportsmen. Dave, who is Chairman of the Disabled Sports Council for Wales, and sits on nine other committees, acted as a steward at the Games. He told Spastics

News that he would list the priorities for disabled people as: rehabilitation first, employment second, and sports third. "Sport has made a big difference to my life," he said. "I think the spastics taking part here today prove by their great spirit and skill that sports mean a great deal to them."

More pictures of the Games, and the results, will appear in Spastics News next month.